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Human Relations News from the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

Room 214, City Hall, Newark, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS PREPARE FOR UNITED NATIONS DAY

Governor Meyner and Mayor Carlin to Participate In United Nations Events

NEWARK CELEBRATION

Mayor Leo P. Carlin, honorary chairman of the Newark United Nations Committee, appointed Dr. Henry H. Kessler, Newark physician and Medical Director of the Kessler Institute, chairman for the event. Dr. Kessler is internationally known as an authority on rehabilitation, and for his work with the World Health Organization of the United Nations.

The Newark Chapter of the AAUN, Mrs. Benjamin Arons, president and the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations are the coordinators of this celebration.

The representatives of one hundred civic, religious, fraternal and social organizations, public and private agencies throughout the City of Newark have been meeting over the past two months to plan for the annual City-wide United Nations Day celebration. This year marks the 14th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the 7th consecutive year that Newarkers have cooperated in sponsoring a City-wide observance.

This year's celebration will feature a United Nations Day dinner and United Nations Concert by The Newark Symphony Orchestra at the Essex House on Thursday, October 22 and a United Nations Education Forum at Clinton Place Jr. High School, on Sunday, October 25.

The dinner at the Essex House at 6 p.m., will feature the theme "What Youth Can Do For The United Nations". Speakers will be Dr. Henry H. Kessler; Miss Judy Isacoff, President of the Newark Youth Council and Alain de Fontenay, an exchange student from France. The cost of the dinner is $4.50 per person. Tickets and further information may be obtained from Mrs. Benjamin Arons, 47 Stengel Avenue, Newark, N. J., WA 6-2844.

The evening event in the Elizabethan Room of the Essex House begins at 8:30 p.m. The program for this event includes . . .

Dr. Henry H. Kessler
Chairman, Newark UN Week

Presentation of the United Nations flags by the Newark Eagle Scouts.

A Welcome by Mayor Leo P. Carlin.

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NEW JERSEY OBSERVANCE

This year for the first time in any State, Governor Meyner will officially open U.N. Week with a State-wide function at the Trenton War Memorial Building on October 18, 1959 at 8 p.m. By so doing, the Governor is setting a precedent that all other States could well follow. Mrs. Benjamin Mahler was appointed chairman of the N. J. Committee for U.N. Day and Week by Governor Meyner. She has contacted 351 communities in New Jersey with a population of over 3,500, asking them to cooperate in the observance of UN DAY. Mrs. Philip Josephson, Newark chairman for the past four years, is program chairman for this event.

The program will present The Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra of 80 musicians conducted by Dr. Nicholas Harsanyi. The Westminster College Choir of Princeton, New Jersey, will also participate. They will play the music of Copland, Purcell and Shostakovich. For the finale, the orchestra and choir will perform the last Movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, "Ode To Joy", in its original German.

Four well-known singers, one of them Calvin Marsh of the Metropolitan Opera House will sing the solo parts. The main speaker will be the Hon. Sir Pierson Dixon, permanent representative to the United Nations from the United Kingdom. A highlight of this outstanding program will be the reading of the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations by Ossie Davis, star of the Broadway pro-

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A New Experience

BY JOAN ELLIS
Encampment for Citizenship
1959 Scholarship Winner

I was very fortunate this summer. Fortunate enough to become acquainted with the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, and fortunate enough to be sent to the Encampment For Citizenship in Riverdale, N. Y. I was awarded a scholarship to spend six full weeks at the Fieldston School.

I shall always remember my first day at Fieldston. Everyone was so friendly and amiable that I soon lost the skeptical attitude I had arrived with. From then on it became one big wonderful game of getting to know people and guessing where they were from. Although the bulk of the Encampment was from the United States, my fellow Encampers were scattered far and wide. Many of the kids were from foreign countries; France, Italy, Puerto Rico, Austria, Nigeria. But we were one big, happy family.

During the six weeks that followed, we studied such topics as Democracy and the "isms", Prejudice, Economic Affairs, The Farmers' Problem, and Immigration. In the afternoons we divided into workshops of our own choosing. I chose to study Juvenile Delinquency. For five weeks our group observed the gang problem in New York City through the eyes of several social workers and youth groups. This experience gave us real insight, and a chance to see a problem being worked out with the help of civilians.

The most outstanding thing I noticed at Fieldston was the importance of learning to live with others; not only tolerating other people's differences, but accepting them, regardless of their race or religion; respecting their views, even if you disagreed with them. I'm sure the world would be a much better place to live in if everyone everywhere learned this lesson.

The thing that made the Encampment so different was the atmosphere. I heard a Mexican boy talk about the underlying prejudice he found in California, a Puerto Rican talk about the poor immigration policy we follow in the United States, and a youth from Little Rock, Arkansas say he was against integration. All of these persons were listened to with respect in an undescribable atmosphere.

I'll never be able to put into words exactly how the Encampment For Citizenship has helped me, but I'm sure it has given me new self-realization and a more wholesome attitude toward all the peoples of the world.

Fourteen Newark Students Participate in NCCJ 14th Annual Brotherhood Youth Camp

During the week of August 31 one hundred and fifty young high school boys and girls participated in the 14th Annual Brotherhood Youth Camp sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews at the University Settlement Camp, Beacon, New York.

A brochure describing the program states: "The Camp has a dual purpose: to strengthen the human relations values of the participants as individuals and to enable them to learn and practice some of the human relations techniques that will make them more effective leaders in their schools and communities". It is further described as a working laboratory in applied Brotherhood where young people learn to know and work with other young people of varied backgrounds.

This "laboratory" was one in which the students themselves did most of the experimenting in planning the general operation of the camp and the topics for the small discussion groups which were the highlight of the camp program. In these small groups, 8-12 persons, each camper had an opportunity to express and clarify his own human relations thinking and to get a chance "to observe and practice techniques of democratic group leadership". Several hours of each day were spent in these small group discussions under the leadership of the camp staff.

The Staff consisted of trained adults from NCCJ and other human relations organizations, college students who served as cabin counselors, supervisors and invited experts who served as speakers and consultants on the various topics covered. Among the staff members from New Jersey were: Mrs. Mary H. Cadwell, associate director of the N. J. Region, NCCJ, and co-director of the Brotherhood Camp, Mrs. Elaine Davidson, school nurse & human relations specialist from Fair Lawn, Carl Glatt of the State Division Against Discrimination, Ed. Gray, director of the Elizabeth PAL, Howard Devaney, director of the N. J. Region, NCCJ, and Walter Chambers, asst. director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Dr. Harold A. Lett, former asst. director of the State DAD was one of the speakers and resource persons who participated. Other New Jersey members of the Staff were Misses Betty Harris and Cathy Ledford, both teachers, who served as camp counselors.

Some of the topics which were covered in lectures were: "Understanding Ourselves and Others", "Housing and School

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Assistant Director Walter D. Chambers, on right, holds a discussion with a group of Newark students and counselors at the NCCJ Brotherhood Youth Camp held at Beacon, New York. Mrs. Mary H. Cadwell, second row right, was co-director of the camp.

Harold A. Lett's Testimonial Dinner

Last week 700 friends of Harold Lett gathered in the Elizabethan Room of the Essex House for a testimonial dinner to honor the man who has done more than any other person in New Jersey to reduce prejudice and eliminate discrimination. His life's goal of stamping out "man's inhumanity to man" was described by the 7 chosen speakers at the dinner. They gave stimulating vignettes from his 25 years of work as a specialist in human relations. All of the tributes were exciting and heart-warming.

We feel that excerpts from the remarks by Arnold Harris of the Jewish Community Relations Committee say the most in the briefest space.

"The most recent time I saw your persuasive abilities at work was when you, Harold Lett, appeared on December 10, 1958 at the Public Hearing before the New Jersey Youth Study Commission on Prejudice, Discrimination and Delinquency. After your statement and response to questions, Judge Rafferty got up and said: 'Dr. Lett, I only want to say one thing: I am proud to pay taxes to a state which has in its employ a man of your ability and understanding . . ."

"Between 1946 and 1959 you have been at this persuading job in more places, on more occasions, in front of more people, many, by the way, hostile to begin with, than anyone I know, and I have yet to hear or to feel in my heart that a single person has come away from listening to you on your subject without having been, at the very least, shaken in his own judgments. It is impossible to estimate the immensity of the services you have performed, not only on official state levels, but especially in the grass roots of New Jersey—in the neighborhoods, schools, in the clubs—where average people live and work and play.

"You have a gift that is rare and we are very sorry that New Jersey has to lose it at a time when it is needed more than ever. I find myself wishing that somehow we had found, created, developed or just combusted someone who could do what you have done. I don't think we have as yet, so we are going to miss you very sorely."

Program Services

Each summer the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations extends its program services to organizations, institutions and clubs in the Newark area. A letter and response card are sent to some 1400 organizations and individuals on the Commission mailing list, offering the facilities of the Commission in conducting programs, or in planning or setting up programs, on selected topics of human relations. Some of the topics which are being suggested this season are:

Newark—A City in Transition (Discussion of the Survey)

To Move or Not to Move? Where Shall We Live?

The Status Seekers and Race Relations

Who are the Gentle People of Prejudice?

Now that organizations are beginning to reorganize for the year, numerous responses and inquiries have been received in the Commission office to fill requests for programs within the next few months. Among the organizations which have responded are:

Newark YM-YWHA; Fuld Neighborhood House; Central Avenue School PTA; Chancellor Avenue School PTA; Student Christian Association of Upsala College; Council Club for the Elderly; South Side High School PTA; Dawkins' Civic Club; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; National Council of Jewish Women, Newark Section; Osborne Terrace Neighborhood Association; Soroptomist Club of Newark; Weequahic Lions Club; Temple B'nai Abraham; YM - YWCA, Southwest Branch; Iota Phi Lambda Sorority; Women's Auxiliary of 2nd Baptist Church; New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Club, Inc. and the Newark Teachers' Union.

This service is a part of our expanding educational program in the Newark community. A program can be planned for your group, be it large or small, with any topic which will fit the interests and needs of the group.

If you wish to have a program on human relations, call or write to Daniel S. Anthony or Walter D. Chambers, Room 214, City Hall, Newark 2, New Jersey. MI 3-6300, Ext. 281.

Trenton Observance

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duction "A Raisin in the Sun". The accompanying music to "Preamble" by Copland was written especially for these exalted words. Mrs. Mary Roebling will be chairman of this Trenton Celebration.

Newark joins the other cities in New Jersey in cooperating with Governor Meyner in supporting this "first" in the Nation. Free tickets for this event will be available in Newark City Hall, Room 214, the office of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. We urge you to support this event.

Date—Sunday, Oct. 18, 1959, 8 p.m. Place—Trenton War Memorial Building. Come! Bring your friends! This is your U.N. Concert and it is *free* to all.

HOUSING CONFERENCE

Date: Sunday, October 18, 1959

Time: 2:30 - 6 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Clinton Avenue and S. 17th St.

Guest Speaker: William L. Brach, Legal Consultant to the Demonstration Grant Project and the Newark Commission for Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation.

The plan for this conference was initiated by the Housing Committee of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council to heighten cooperation among community groups and individuals concerned with housing. Among the topics to be discussed are: citizen participation in urban redevelopment, code enforcement, rental practices and human relations problems in housing. The conference is being set up to permit a maximum amount of free discussion and exchanges of ideas.

Attendance is by invitation, but persons who wish to observe may write to Donald Z. Dworkin, 74 Seymour Avenue for further information.

Newark Celebration

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Reading of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter by Mr. William Brown, Newark teacher.

Selections by The Newark Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mr. Frank Scocozza.

Soloist—Miss Vera Conti, Soprano.

Address—Dr. Howard A. Rusk, "Rehabilitation and World Peace".

Finale—"World Anthem" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Free tickets for this event may be obtained at Room 214, City Hall.

On Sunday, October 25th, a United Nations Education Forum will be held at Clinton Place Jr. High School, 12:30-4 p.m. Two important issues before the world today will be discussed at the Forum. These are, "World Refugee Year" and "Awakening Africa".

Mr. Herbert H. Tate, Presidential appointee for the World Refugee Organization will be chairman of the "World Refugee" Forum.

Mr. Iam E. Berendsen, Political Affairs Officer, Trusteeship Division of the United Nations will speak on "Awakening Africa". Mr. James A. Pawley, executive secretary of the Urban League of Essex County will be chairman.

Other activities during the week of October 19th will include informational displays on United Nations activities in the windows and interiors of downtown stores, buildings and institutions. Some of these exhibits will be displayed at department stores, Public Service, Blue Cross, Newark Museum, and The Newark Public Library. There will be a special exhibit in the rotunda of City Hall. Newark Boy Scouts, under the supervision of Dr. Harry Jellinek, will distribute posters throughout the city.

A partial list of the various committee chairmen follows:

Co-chairman, Mrs. Benjamin Arons.

Forum Chairman, Mrs. Irving Rosenberg.

Program Chairman, Mrs. Philip Josephson.

Special Exhibits, Miss Marjorie Woodruff, Mr. Wallace Fern.

Speakers, Dr. Elizabeth Kelly.

Publicity, Mr. Jules Beitler.

Decorations, Mrs. Oscar Newman.

Brotherhood Youth Camp

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Desegregation and Integration", "Intergroup Relations in the Metropolitan Area: Problems and Steps Toward Solution", "Our Puerto Rican Neighbors and Juvenile Delinquency: Responsibility and Challenge". Some of the topics selected for small group discussion were: Understanding Religion, Prejudice and Discrimination, A Code of Behavior for Teenagers, World Tension, Separation of Church and State, Schools and School Government, and Mass Media.

The students participating in the Camp came from high schools in Essex, Union and Passaic Counties in New Jersey and Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and West Chester, New York. Fourteen Newark students representing 5 high schools and 6 organizations participated. Miss Esther Isacoff of Weequahic High School was awarded a scholarship by the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to attend the Camp.

The response and reaction of these young people to this 5-day experience may be best expressed in quoting a few of their comments on an evaluation of the Camp:

"I shall certainly apply for next year's Camp, This is the first chance I have had to really find out what I believe".

"Let's turn the bus around and go back. These have been the 5 most wonderful days in my 16 years".

A follow-up meeting of the N. J. Campers is being set for early October to formulate plans for the back-home application of the knowledge and experiences gained at the Brotherhood Youth Camp.

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations salutes the NCCJ and all those concerned with this excellent program of providing a human relations training center for our youth of today, leaders of tomorrow.

The public is invited to participate in this week of activities. If you or your organization wish to work with the Committee, obtain free tickets or further information, call the office of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281.

STATE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS IN AREA OF PRIVATE HOUSING

In the July issue of the Human Relations News we began a story on new state civil rights laws in the area of private housing. A more detailed discussion of these laws as enacted in Massachusetts and Connecticut follows.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts became the second state to bar discrimination in private housing on April 22, 1959, when Governor Foster Furculo of Massachusetts signed a bill prohibiting racial or religious discrimination in all "multiple dwellings" and "contiguously located housing." Under the law's definitions of these types of housing, the measure applies to apartment houses with three or more apartments, and to one or two family houses that are parts of developments consisting of ten or more housing units.

Enforcement of the new housing law is vested in the Massachusetts State Commission Against Discrimination which administers the existing laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, in places of public accommodation, resort or amusement, in educational institutions and public, publicly-aided and redevelopment housing.

Connecticut

Connecticut's legislation barring discrimination in private housing was signed by Governor Abraham Ribicoff on May 12, 1959. It covers "any housing accommodation . . . that is one of five or more housing accommodations all of which are located on a single parcel of land or parcels of land that are contiguous . . . and all of which any person owns or otherwise controls the sale or rental thereof." This coverage is narrower than that of the Massachusetts law in respect to multiple dwellings, applying to units of at least five apartments (compared to three in Massachusetts) but broader with respect to one and two family housing developments, applying to groups of five or more such units (rather than 10 or more).

As in the cases of Colorado and Massachusetts, enforcement of the new housing statute is vested in the existing state agency — the Connecticut Civil Rights Commission—charged with responsibility to enforce the other state laws prohibiting discrimination.